

MARKET STREET

"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume III

October 30, 2011

No. 44

Where Did God Authorize This?

Mark W. White

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net
Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

Visit Us On The Web
MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor

Near The close of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said:

“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23).

This passage teaches a great fundamental truths--the emptiness and presumptuousness of doing anything the Lord has not authorized. Every ingredient of faithfulness to God and His Son is contained in this sweeping principle. One who has his heart set on doing “all in the name of the Lord” (Colossians 3:17) will be faithful in all things.

The Lord’s statement clearly demonstrates that God requires more than mere faith, sincerity, human effort, and/or “religious” acts if one is to be saved. Unless one is engaged in behavior God has authorized (i.e., doing “the will of my Father”), one’s efforts are all in vain.

What God does not authorize, He does not recognize.

It is not enough that we like something, something attracts large crowds, a “big” congregation somewhere is doing this or that, or some “great name” preacher supports, endorses, or teaches it. All that matters is “where does God authorize this?”

Merely to call Jesus’ name over what we do is no sign of His approval (Acts 19:14-16). Faithful men in modern times operate on the premise of book, chapter, and verse--explicit or implicit--and we must seek scriptural authority for every word and deed.

We must never forget this tremendous fact. So much preaching and practice nowadays has no more authority for it than John Calvin, ancient

councils, creed books, some popular psychologist or philosopher, “I don’t see anything wrong with it,” “I like it,” or a combination thereof.

One is not faithful to God who is not faithful to Christ (John 15:23). You cannot have it one way or the other, it is a “package deal.” One is not faithful to Christ who does not honor His Word (John 12:48). To say that one loves Christ but he plays fast and loose with His teaching, is to actually deny his love for Christ. God has given His Son “all authority” (Matthew 28:18), and we must scrupulously submit to it. Jesus does not possess some, more or even most of heaven's authority. He has all authority!

Whenever we take a step without asking, “where did God authorize this?” We are in very dangerous territory. We will certainly place our foot on a spiritual landmine if we do not consult the Lord's will in Scripture.

According to Jesus, those who try to “freelance” religiously will arrive at the Judgment only to hear Him say, “I don’t believe we’ve met and it’s too late to get acquainted now.”

–via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama



Our Aim As A Church Family

Steve Dewhirst

Scripture’s overriding message is reconciliation. God seeks to reconcile man to a proper relationship with Himself by providing forgiveness for our sins; this great purpose has been accomplished in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at Calvary (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). As men and women reconciled to the Father, we are to join ourselves together as a spiritual family of Christians, even as we read in the New Testament (Romans 12:4-5). These independent church families, existing throughout the world, are to function within the parameters of God’s written word – the Bible. That is our aim here at Stonegate.

But no local church family is perfect, inasmuch as humans are imperfect. We must always try to grow

closer and closer to the model of scripture as we come to understand the Bible more clearly. This, too, must be our aim at Stonegate. This pursuit of reconciliation, sometimes called restoration, is a noble calling, and one in which we invite other to participate.

Every local church – regardless of what name is on its building – should recognize the necessity of reconciling its practices to what we read in God’s word. Unfortunately, many churches exist for the purpose of extending the borders of man-made denominations, even though the concept of denominationalism is antithetical to the teaching of Jesus Christ. His desire is that believers be united, not hopelessly divided into competing sects. (John 17:20-21).

And even in local churches with no denominational affiliation, as is increasingly common today, the emphasis is often not upon pleasing God, but man. In fact, many modern churches have been started by polling the community as to what it “wants in a church” and then catering to those wants. The result will always be a church that’s entertaining and fun, but not necessarily pleasing to God. And that’s what many people just don’t get: that what pleases man is not necessarily what pleases God! What God truly wants from people is spelled out in His word.

“All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Many people do not believe in the inspiration of scripture. others pay lip-service to the concept of inspiration but, frankly, don’t like what these verses mean. Many religious people object to anything that might restrict their freedom to do exactly as they please. But Paul clearly says that God’s inspired word is designed to offer us reproof and correction. Aye, there’s the rub. People don’t like reproof and correction. Reproof is another them for rebuke, and who likes to be rebuked? And correction refers to one being restored to a right way of doing things. Well again, who wants to be told he's wrong? We would much rather have approval and affirmation of what we do religiously, regardless of how unbiblical it might be. Today’s religious world has little appreciation for Bible authority; it’s all about pleasing people and drawing a crowd.

We Christians who meet at Stonegate (Market Street, DAC) make no claim of perfection; there will

always be ways for God's people to improve ourselves and our practices. Our aim is to follow the Bible in the way we worship, the work that we pursue, our methods of evangelizing, what we teach, and how we live our lives as individual disciples of Jesus Christ. We want to be able to turn to scripture to demonstrate our authority for doing what we do – and to tell the truth – we think it's fair to expect the same from others. no, we don't claim to know everything about the Bible. We don't have all the answers, but part of discipleship is determining to keep looking in God's word for answers (2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:18).

Our plea to you is a simple one: let's get back to the Bible! Too much of true Christianity has been obscured by modern "churchianity." Instead of pointing to a "thus saith the Lord" in determining right and wrong, too many are asking "what do the people want?" As Paul once wrote, "If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). Our aim is to reconcile all we do with the word of God. Won't you make it your aim, too?

-via *The Stonegate Standard*; Port Arthur, Texas.

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Commitment

Dennis Carrow

Contentment is a state of mind that is able to accept things as they are and be at peace. (Read Philippians 4:10-13). There are various ways that contentment brings value to our lives. Frederick Keonig reminds us, "we tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have."

Contentment is such a great challenge in our culture due to our societies insatiable appetite for things. We are continuously bombarded with the "new and improved." While this can drive the first principle we studied on being industrious, this can also lead us to become materialistic. The reason contentment is listed as one of our virtues is that it enables us to

keep possession and life circumstances in their proper perspective.

When Job's life seemed to be falling apart he stated, "Naked I came from my mothers womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord" Job 1:21. It is this view that enabled Job to maintain his integrity throughout his discussion with his friends. He did not become bitter, jealous, or mean-spirited.

Contentment is not laziness. Contentment enables us to put "things" in their proper perspective, and whether we "abound or suffer need" we can say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Anxiety and worry are enemies of the joy given to us in Christ. contentment is that virtue that qualifies concern, turns to God, and continues a walk of faith regardless of the current distress. (ref. Matthew 6:25-34).

-via *What Is True?*; Little Rock, Arkansas.

Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ
514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Hazel Toone

Tim Dean

Jack Jones

Brent Lowman

Larry Owens

Betty Faye Holt

Rhett Bailey

Phillip Harwell

Joe Collier

Barbara Ogles

Mary Ruth Gardner

Martha Rice

Matt Poff

Timothy Harwell

Gladys Sandlin

Una King Currier

Randy Graviett

Paige Phillips

Sarah Collier

In The Hospital:

Rachel Grubbs; Windsor House Rehab. - rm. 300
Margaret Reed; Tallahassee Hospital; Tallahassee, Fla.

Athens Convalescent Center:

Betty Bates, rm. 11
Audrey Moyers, rm. 76

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65 Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Curtis Fudge, rm. 24 Mary Smith, rm. 85
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Limestone Manor:

Albert Norton, rm. 98

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

Andrew Deen; Japan
Whitney Deen; Japan

OUT OF TOWN: *Ida Nell Griffin* is visiting in Cleveland, Ohio this week with her son, Jeff and his family... *The Mitchells: Marion and Irene* are on a vacation this weekend... *Marilyn Bradley* has been in Texas for several weeks... *Helen Blankeship* is in the mountains this weekend.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: *The Williams: Todd and Julie* have expressed their desire to be a part of the church at Market Street. We are glad to have them here and working with us. Let us extend a warm welcome to *Todd and Julie* and their two sons: *Matthew and Philip*.

NURSERIES AVAILABLE: There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other is in the east wing.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of October 16th*

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 135
Morning Worship 174
Evening Worship..... 128

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 112

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 30th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marty Adams
Assisting Joel Hamm
Serving Bonnie Sutton Harold Davis
..... Larry Mitchell Delmer Carter
Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Evening Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblenz
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Nathaniel Adams
Preaching Warren Glass
Lord's Supper Joel Hamm
Closing Prayer Marcus Morris

Other Assignments for Sunday, October 30th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, November 2nd:

Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Bible Reading..... (Isaiah 32:9-16)
..... Hunter Cox
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Invitation Warren Glass
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, November 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Todd Williams
Prayer Ronnie Locke
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Stuart Wilson
Serving Kenneth Smith Keenon Currier
..... Jerry McGlocklin Landon Adams
Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Marion Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, November 6th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Marty Adams